

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 03300 041602Z

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 /117 W

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R 041145Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4428

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 3300

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: PUERTO RICO AND UN

COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: STATE 049329

1. AS DEPT IS AWARE, GOI WAS HELPFUL ON VOTE TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24 LAST FALL. AMBASSADOR KAUL VISITED PUERTO RICO LAST YEAR AND OUR UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED. GOI OFFICIALS ARE FULLY AWARE OF STRONG VIEWS OF USG ON THIS ISSUE. EMBASSY WILL RENEW ITS APPROACHES WHEN INSTRUCTED BY DEPT. IT IS LIKELY THAT POSSIBILITY OF SIKKIM AND OTHER SEPARATIST INTERESTS IN INDIA BEING RAISED IN INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MODEL OF PUERTO RICO HAS OCCURRED TO GOI BEFORE AND THAT THIS IS ALREADY ONE FACTOR BEHIND THE INDIAN POSITION. PRIME MINISTER GANDHI IN SPEECH IN CALCUTTA MARCH 2 OBSERVED: "SOME TIME AGO WHEN THERE WAS SOME AGITATION IN THE PUNJAB, SOME PERSONS STATED AGITATION IN ENGLAND FOR AN INDEPENDENT SIKHISTAN AND AFTER THE DISMISSAL OF THE CORRUPT TAMIL NDAU MINISTRY, SOME OTHER PERSONS HAD STARTED AN AGITATION FOR AN INDE-

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 03300 041602Z

PENDENT TAMIL NADU. THERE IS NO SCOPE FOR AN AZAD TAMIL

NADU IN HINDUSTAM. THERE CANNOT BE ANY PLACE IN INDIA FOR ANY SEPARATIST MOVE IN ANY STATE." EARLIER (LAST NOW 15) SHE TOLD AN INTERVIEWER: "THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CANNOT FORGIVE ME FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF BANGLADESH, THE CHANGES IN SIKKIM, THE ACCORD IN KASHMIR...."

2. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT IN OUR MIND, HOWEVER, THAT EVERY INDIAN HACKLE WILL RISE TO FULL MAST IF WE OFFER SUCH AREAS AS POSSIBLE TARGETS WHICH SOME COUNTRY OR OTHER COULD RAISE IN THE UN OR COMMITTEE OF 24 IN ARGUING OUR CASE ON PUERTO RICO. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO DO SO ONLY IF IT APPEARED TO US, THE DEPARTMENT, AND USUN THAT THE INDIANS WERE LIKELY TO VOTE ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF THIS ISSUE.

3. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE HERE THAT WE CAN KEEP INDIA WITH US ON A POSITIVE VOTE ON PUERTO RICO (REFTEL PARA 8). THE INDIAN VOTE ON POSTPONEMENT LAST FALL WAS SEEN BY THE GOI AS JUSTIFIABLE ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS; A STRAIGHT "UP AND DOWN" VOTE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF A VOTE NOT TO CONSIDER PUERTO RICO AT ALL, PARTICULARLY WITH YUGOSLAVIA ABSTAINING, WOULD IN OUR VIEW BE MORE LIKELY TO FIND INDIA ABSTAINING RATHER THAN VOTING WITH OUR MORE EXPLICIT FRIENDS. OUR CONCERN WOULD BE THAT BY UNLEASHING AN IMPLIED THREAT TO WHAT THE INDIANS SEE AS THEIR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WE WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO PUSH THE INDIANS OVER TO SUPPORT THE CUBAN INITIATIVE THAN TO WEEN THEM OVER TO DIRECTLY OPPOSE IT. SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTING, POLICIES, DEPENDENCIES, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE03300
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760083-0672
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760395/aaaadfwh.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 49329
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: PUERTO RICO AND UN COMMITTEE OF 24
TAGS: PFOR, PORO, PINT, IN, RQ, UN, COMMITTEE OF 24, (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006